

**REMARKS**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 5-9, and 13-23 are pending. Claims 2-4 and 10-12 are cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 18, and 20 are amended, and claims 21-23 are added. Claims 1 and 9 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

**Reasons for Entry of Amendments**

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicant did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

**Drawings**

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has accepted the revised drawing submitted on November 17, 2004.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tang (U.S. 5,880,362). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended to recite a combination of steps directed to a method of assisting in the design of a vehicular suspension, including *inter alia*

entering specification values corresponding to the indicated suspension in any one of said specification value entering window, said first analytic window, or said second analytic window;

reflecting the specification values that have been entered in the one of the windows in each of the two other windows.

In addition, independent claim 9 is amended to recite a combination of elements directed to an apparatus for assisting in the design of a vehicular suspension, including *inter alia*

means for entering specification values corresponding to the indicated suspension in any one of said specification value entering window, said first analytic window, or said second analytic window; and

means for reflecting the specification values that have been entered in the one of the windows in each of the two other windows.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of steps/elements as set forth in each of independent claim 1 and 9 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Tang.

By contrast, as can be seen in Tang et al. FIG. 2, this document merely discloses a basic input device 40 used to enter data for the FEM model 42, FEM 42 cooperating with LS/DYNA3D model 46. However, this is different from the present invention which recites entering (or means for entering) the specification values at definition points corresponding to the indicated suspension in any one of said specification value entering window, said first analytic window, or said second analytic window; and reflecting the specification values that have been entered in the one of the windows in each of the two other windows.

In other words, the present invention teaches three different input windows, and entry into any one of the three causes the definition points to be reflected in each of the other two windows. Tang et al. fail to teach or suggest this.

Thus, at least for the reasons stated above, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of steps/elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 9 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

Therefore, claims 1 and 9 are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner will note that claims 2-4, and 10-12 have been cancelled, and claims 21 and 22 have been added.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION**

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By



Paul C. Lewis, #43,368

P. O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

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